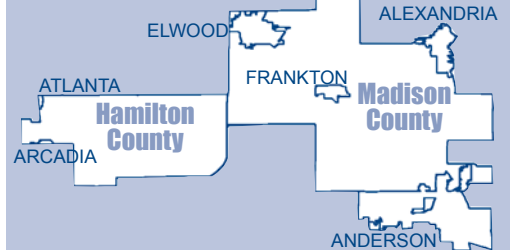


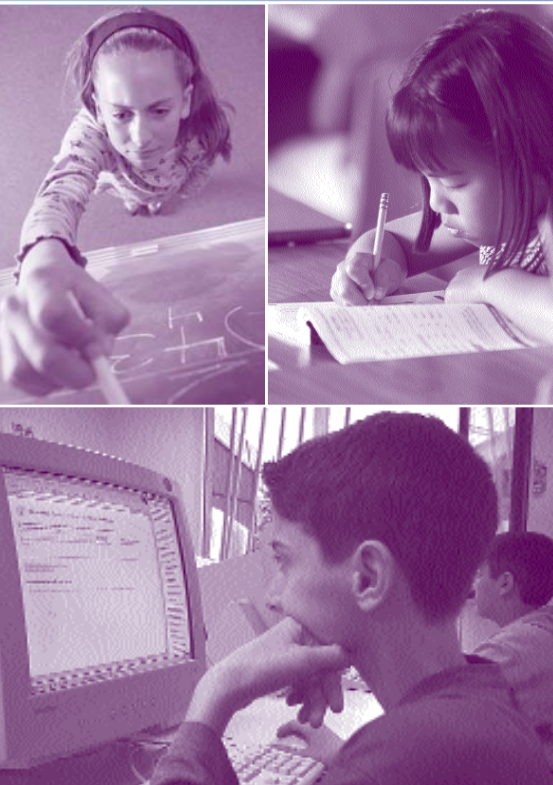
State Representative **Terri Austin**



District 36



Session Report



- ☒ Small Businesses Win
- ☒ Clean Water Indiana
- ☒ Indiana Speed Limits
- ☒ Food Handlers Exemptions

Small Business Wins Regulatory Relief

Indiana small businesses will face a friendlier regulatory environment, thanks to a new law that gives Indiana's small businesses a voice in the state's regulatory process. My Small Business Regulatory Flexibility bill (H.B. 1822) constitutes a major victory for small businesses throughout Indiana. **The bill provides long-overdue relief from burdensome state rules and regulations.** I am pleased to report that HB 1822 passed both chambers of the General Assembly without a single NO vote.

The successful passage and signing of Indiana's Small Business Regulatory Flexibility bill resulted from Indiana small business

stakeholders working together with the authors and sponsors in a coalition. The Indiana National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Manufacturers Association also deserve recognition for their efforts in supporting the legislation and helping to facilitate a

Rep. Austin attends the bill signing with Gov. Daniels.

vibrant and growing small business sector in Indiana. Sen. Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) served as sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

As a result of this legislation, state agencies will now be required to consider the effects of new and current administrative rules and regulations on small business. This legislation, also referred to as regulatory flexibility, was supported

by 75 percent of members according to the 2005 NFIB/Indiana Member Ballot.

H.B. 1822 includes the following provisions:

- Requires state government agencies that intend to adopt rules that impose requirements or costs on small businesses to prepare an economic impact statement for the rule.
- Provides that the statement must include a regulatory flexibility analysis that evaluates alternative regulatory methods that could minimize the impact on small businesses.
- Requires the agency to: (1) publish the statement with the notice of public hearing for the rule; and (2) submit the statement and the rule to the office of economic development.
- Requires the agency to consider the office's written comments on the rule before adopting the rule.
- Provides that a small business aggrieved by a rule finally adopted by an agency may bring an action to determine whether the agency complied with the requirements concerning small businesses during the rule-making process.
- Provides that before re-adopting a rule expiring after June 30, 2005, an agency must reevaluate the rule's impact on small businesses.

The goal of HB 1822 is to streamline state guidelines that small businesses must abide by and ensure that only the most pertinent guidelines will be put into place. By not having to comply with unnecessary or redundant guidelines, **small businesses will save money and be able to reinvest into the business, encouraging economic growth and new jobs.** HB 1822 also sends a positive message to Hoosier entrepreneurs and will assist in Indiana's economic development efforts.

Legislation worth noting:



Kindergarten age requirement changes

Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, children who are five on or before August 1, 2006, will be able to enroll in kindergarten. This change is estimated to result in an additional 6,000 children enrolling in the half-day program. (HB 1001)

Absentee voting changes

Under SEA 15, individuals who apply to vote absentee in an election will have to state the specific reason for wanting to vote by absentee ballot and have a reasonable expectation of

being unable to vote during the entire 12 hours that polls are open.

Keeping Indiana's Elderly Safe

HB 1159 allows police and emergency personnel to search for senior citizens who have wandered away from home without waiting the standard 24 hours before filing a missing persons alert. The bill also stipulates that the local media be alerted in order to ensure the safe return of the missing senior. Modeled after the state's Amber Alert system, the bill provides that a law enforcement agency that receives a credible notification concerning a missing endangered adult may prepare and forward a report concerning the missing endangered adult to: (1) other law enforcement agencies; (2) the National Crime Information Center; (3) the data and communication system; and (4) broadcasters in the area where the missing adult may be located.

Additional Important Legislation

Clean Water Indiana Funding Helps Bring More Dollars Home from Washington

As a result of HB 1431, **Indiana will now have more dollars available to improve the quality of water used by all Hoosiers.** The bill allocates approximately \$3.7 million annually from the Cigarette Tax Fund to the Clean Water Indiana program in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



In 1999, the General Assembly created Clean Water Indiana to protect and enhance Indiana land, lakes, and rivers by reducing polluted storm water runoff in urban and rural areas from entering surface and ground water. This

highly successful program initially started with \$1 million allocated in 2001 from the Build Indiana fund.

Over the past three years, hundreds of CWI projects have been implemented through grants to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and through cost-sharing and incentive programs with land users. Most importantly, the state could obtain up to \$8 in federal money for each \$1 state match as a part of the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). **This state-federal match could result in an additional \$30 million in new revenue** to fund Indiana's water and soil protection and conservation programs.

Speed Limit Bill Will Require Monitoring of Teenage Driving Accidents

Effective July 1, Hoosier drivers soon will be able to go faster on major roadways in Indiana. Speed limits on rural sections of interstate highways will increase from 65 to 70 mph for cars and 60 to 65 mph for trucks. Speed limits on four-lane divided highways will increase from 55 to 60 mph following a study by the Indiana Department of Transportation to ensure the safety of higher speeds on these roads.

Although experienced drivers may easily and safely handle these increased speeds, I am not convinced that this change will be in the best interest of young, inexperienced drivers. As the mother of two teenage drivers, I know what it is like to worry about whether or not your

children will return home safely each and every evening. My concern for my own children and other young drivers is what motivated me to include a special provision in SB 217 to require the monitoring and annual reporting of accidents involving drivers between the ages of 16-19. The reports will be made available to the public, the Governor and the General Assembly.



Food Handlers Certification Exemption Protects Clubs and Organizations

Sometimes the best ideas for legislation come from constituents. That certainly holds true for HB 1056, which corrects problems with a food safety bill passed by the General Assembly in 2001.

Last fall, I was contacted by Bobbie Young, a member of the Frankton Lions Club, with concerns about the new regulations that would require any organization serving food to the public to use certified food handlers when selling certain food items at fundraising events. Young and others realized the club's traditional fundraising method of selling food at local festivals and community



events could be in jeopardy when the new rule took effect July 1, 2005.

In the past, food pantries, church picnics, and other community festivals where food is served have faced challenges because of the existing food handler laws. This legislation would exempt these groups from having to follow the strict guidelines, which are really meant more for restaurants and other formal eating establishments.

Contact

Representative

Terri Austin



Office:

1-800-382-9842

Address:

200 W. Washington St
Indianapolis IN 46204

Online:

H36@in.gov
www.in.gov/H36

*Sign-up on my website
to receive email updates*

2005 Session Highlights



Rep. Austin honors Jody Howell, Indiana's Miss Basketball, and her parents Jon and Penny Howell.



Rep. Austin reviews legislation at her desk in the House chamber.



U.S. Army Specialist Raymond White, killed on duty in Iraq, was honored by a House Resolution. His parents, Henry and Sharon White, accept the honor.

Representative Terri Austin

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis IN 46204

Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indiana
House of
Representatives